ADVENTURES INTO WEIRD WORLDS

10¢
JAN. NO. 14
ATLAS

ENTER THESE WEIRD WORLDS

ON SALE EVERY MONTH

THE MOST TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE EVER KNOWN... DON'T MISS...

A SHRIEK IN THE NIGHT!

AND OTHER FRIGHTENING ADVENTURES INTO WEIRD WORLDS!

HORROR ON HAUNTED HILL!

AT EXACTLY 4:30 P.M., ON JUNE 14TH, A MYSTERIOUS SHADOW FELL OVER WILBUR COLLINS AS HE WAS WORKING IN THE LOCAL GRAVEYARD. LITTLE DID WILBUR DREAM THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY THE SHADOW OF... DOOM!
WH... WHAT'S THAT?
by Stan Lee
BEWARE... A TERRIFYING LANDSCAPE IS UNEARTHED BY... STAN LEE AND CARMINE INFANTINO

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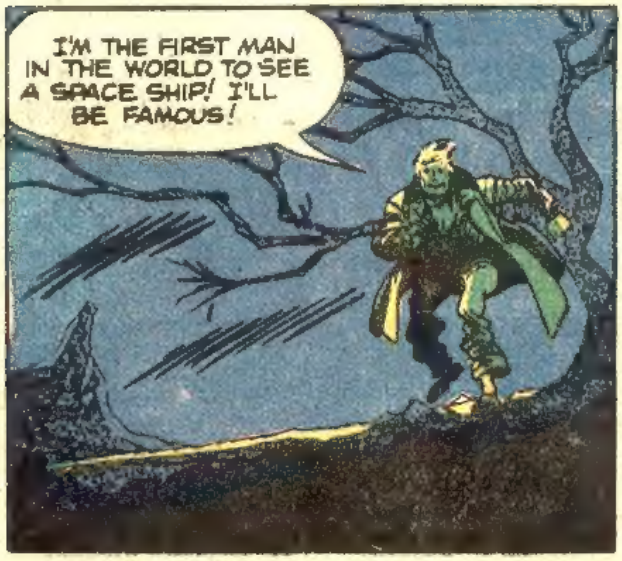
Scan by Fett !!

WILBUR RAN UP THE HILL AS FAST AS HIS AGED LEGS COULD CARRY HIM! HIS HEART WAS POUNDING WITH EXCITEMENT...

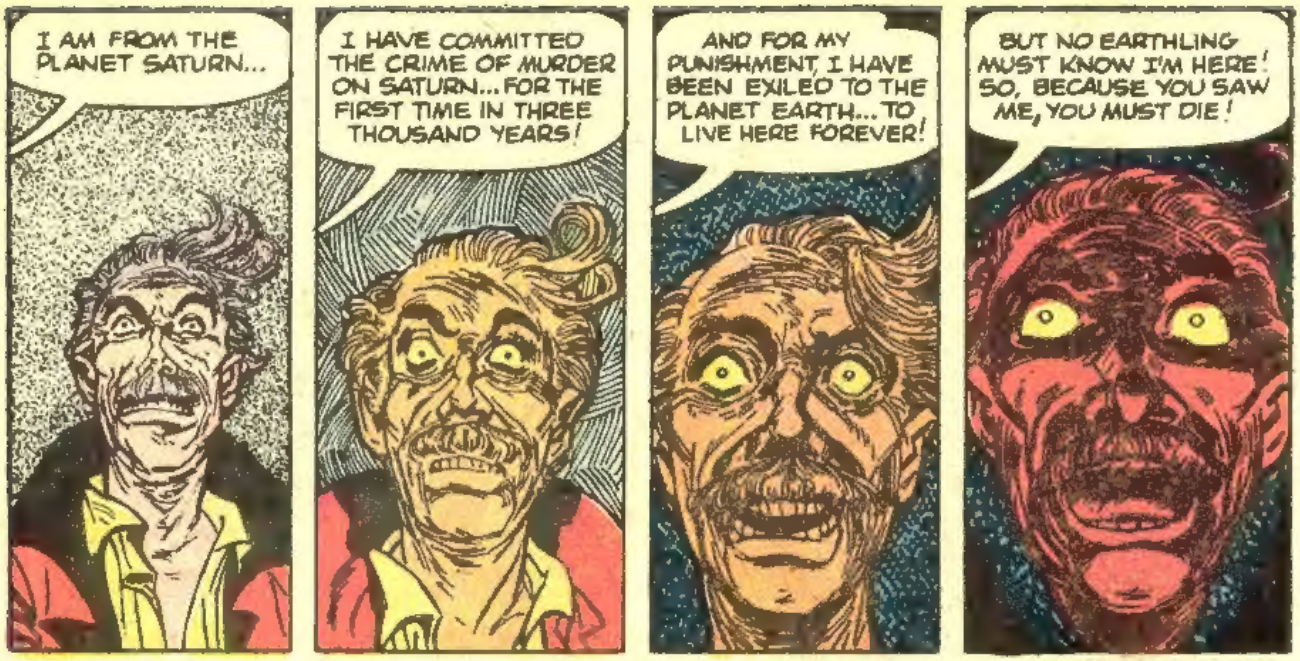


AND A FIGURE FROM ANOTHER WORLD STEPPED OUT ONTO THE WARM GROUND OF EARTH...

BUT THE CREATURE WHO HAD LEFT THE SPACE SHIP ANSWERED HIM...

BUT BEFORE WILBUR COULD REACH THE TOP OF THE HILL, A HUGE SILENT DOOR SWUNG OPEN FROM THE SIDE OF THE SPACE SHIP...

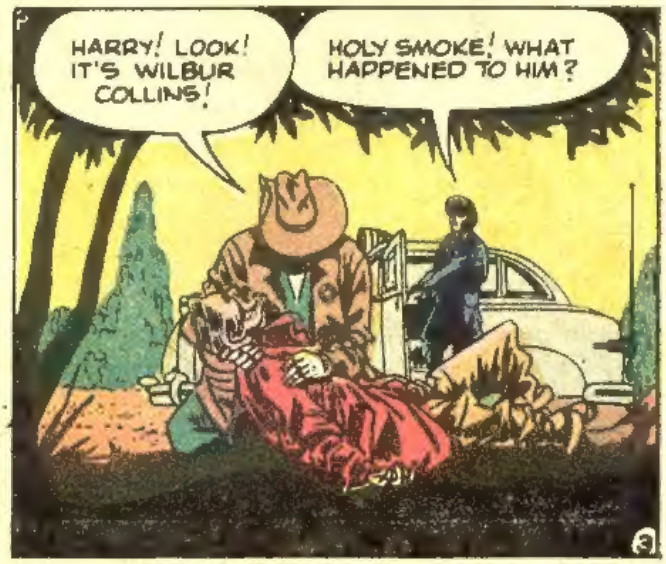
BY THE TIME WILBUR REACHED THE TOP OF THE HILL, THE SPACE SHIP HAD ALREADY TAKEN OFF...


I AM FROM THE PLANET SATURN...
I HAVE COMMITTED THE CRIME OF MURDER ON SATURN... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE THOUSAND YEARS!
AND FOR MY PUNISHMENT, I HAVE BEEN EXILED TO THE PLANET EARTH... TO LIVE HERE FOREVER!
BUT NO EARTHLING MUST KNOW I'M HERE! SO, BECAUSE YOU SAW ME, YOU MUST DIE!

THE QUIET AFTERNOON STILLNESS WAS BROKEN BY A SHRILL CRY OF TERROR AND THEN...SILENCE...

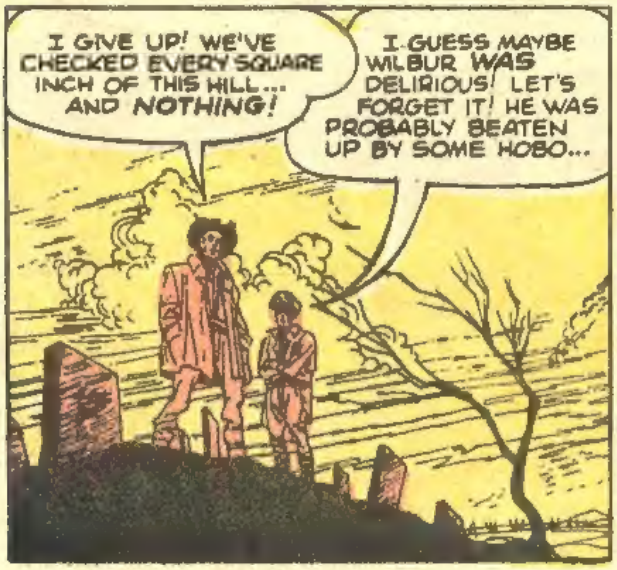
BUT THE CREATURE FROM SATURN DIDN'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT EARTH PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEATH AND UNCONSCIOUSNESS! AND WHEN THE MOON WAS HIGH, WILBUR COLLINS BEGAN TO STIR...

THE NEXT MORNING, CAPTAIN DOUG MICHELS OF THE COUNTY POLICE FOUND WILBUR, LYING IN THE ROAD, MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE...



HIS NECK IS BROKEN... AND HE'S TAKEN A SEVERE BEATING! HE CAN'T LIVE MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES MORE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, WILBUR? WHO DID IT?
SPACE SHIP! THING FROM SATURN! EXILED ON EARTH! MUST HIDE FROM HUMANS!
SPACE SHIP! HE'S DELIRIOUS, CAPTAIN!
NO, I DON'T THINK HE IS! WHERE IS THIS CREATURE FROM SATURN, WILBUR?
CEMETERY HILL... TREE...HE...UGH!
HE'S DEAD!
POOR GUY! CAPTAIN, YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT STUFF ABOUT A MONSTER FROM ANOTHER WORLD, DO YOU?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! WE'RE GONNA GO UP TO THAT HILL AND LOOK AROUND!
OKAY!
THERE'S THE TREE HE MENTIONED, BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE!
BE CAREFUL...THE CREATURE MAY BE HIDING SOMEWHERE!
4

FOR HOURS THE TWO POLICE OFFICERS SEARCHED THE HILL...BUT THERE WERE NO CLUES! NO TRACE OF THE KILLER FROM SATURN COULD BE FOUND...

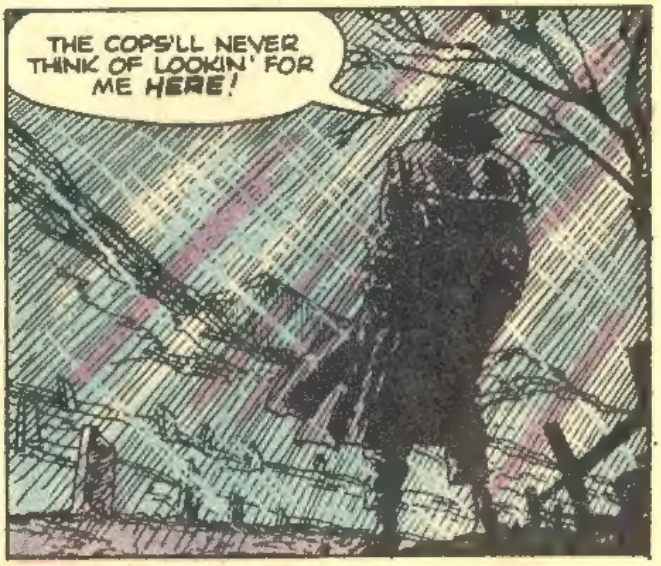

I GIVE UP! WE'VE CHECKED EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THIS HILL... AND NOTHING!
I GUESS MAYBE WILBUR WAS DELIRIOUS! LET'S FORGET IT! HE WAS PROBABLY BEATEN UP BY SOME HOBO...

BUT THE NEWSPAPERS GOT WIND OF THE STORY AND PLAYED IT UP BIG!

DAILY MARK
MURDERED CARETAKER BLAMES KILLER FROM ANOTHER PLANET WITH DYING BREATH!
HAUNTED HILL CLAIMS ITS FIRST VICTIM
IS AMERICA BEING INVADED BY TERROR FROM THE PLANETS?

BEFORE LONG, NOBODY WOULD SET FOOT NEAR THE CEMETERY HILL! IT GOT THE NAME "HAUNTED HILL" AND BECAME A DESERTED LANDMARK...

ONLY ONE MAN WANTED TO VISIT "HAUNTED HILL" AND THAT MAN WAS "TRIGGER" GREZNO...THE GUNMAN!

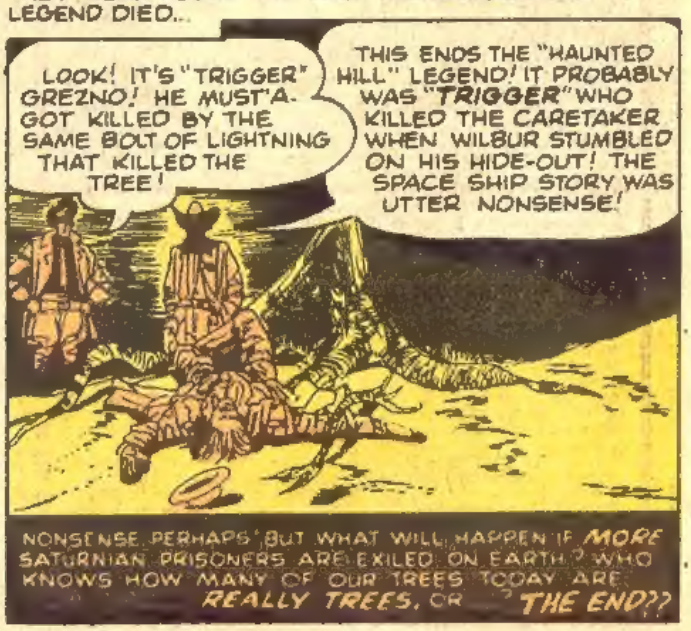


HIGH ATOP THE HILL, GREZNO STOPPED...

HERE'S THE TREE NEAR WHERE THAT OLD FOOL WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SEEN THE GUY FROM SATURN!
HAW! AS IF THERE REALLY IS SUCH A THING AS A SATURNIAN!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, A DEADLY BOLT OF LIGHTNING LASHED OUT...

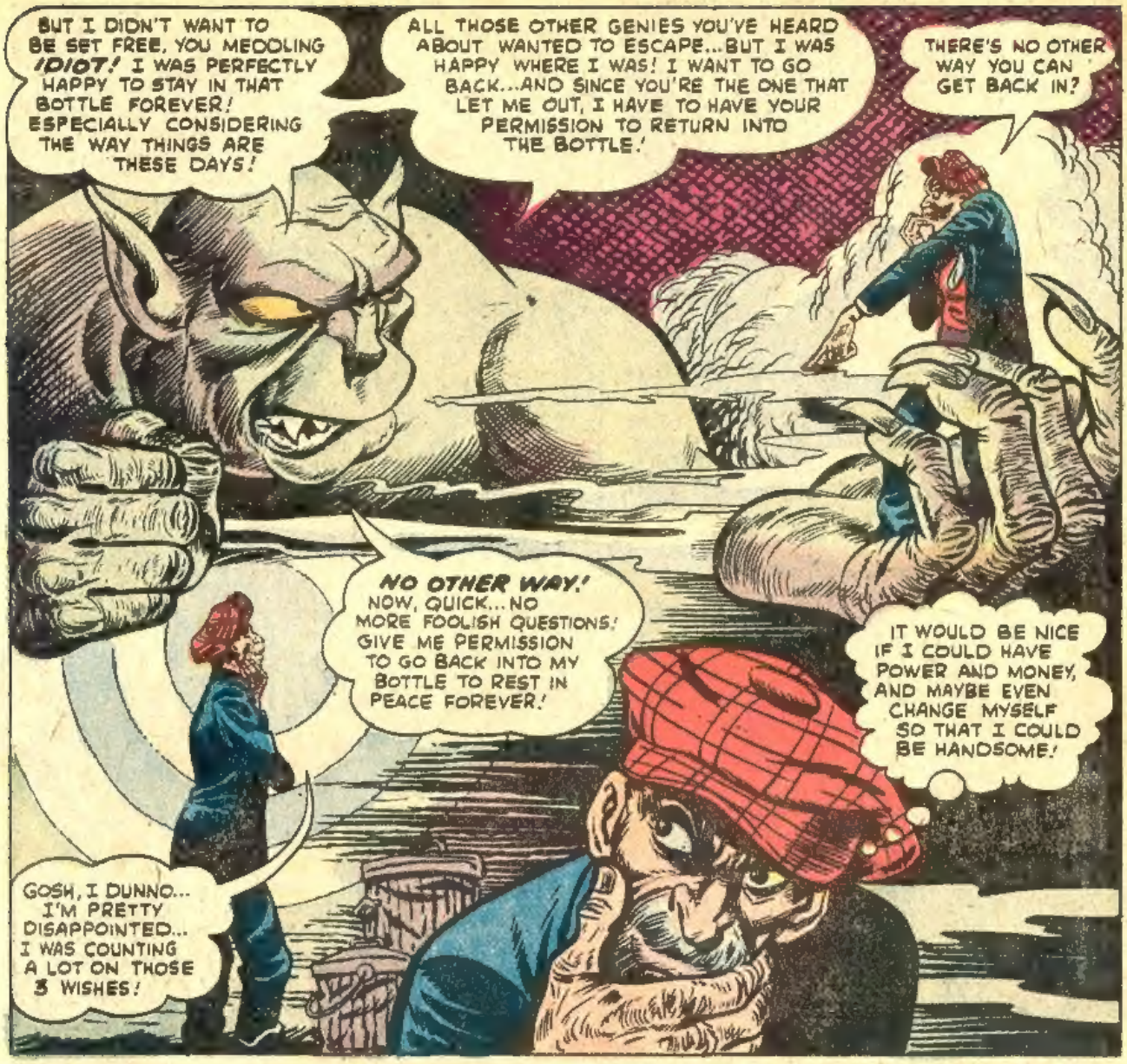
THEY WERE FOUND THE NEXT MORNING...AND A LEGEND DIED..


LOOK! IT'S "TRIGGER" GREZNO! HE MUST'A GOT KILLED BY THE SAME BOLT OF LIGHTNING THAT KILLED THE TREE!
THIS ENDS THE "HAUNTED HILL" LEGEND! IT PROBABLY WAS "TRIGGER" WHO KILLED THE CARETAKER WHEN WILBUR STUMBLED ON HIS HIDE-OUT! THE SPACE SHIP STORY WAS UTTER NONSENSE!
NONSENSE PERHAPS! BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MORE SATURNIAN PRISONERS ARE EXILED ON EARTH? WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OF OUR TREES TODAY ARE REALLY TREES, OR
THE END??

FOREVER IS A LONG TIME!

THE SILENCE OF A LONELY, DESERTED STREET IS BROKEN BY THE RATTLE OF A TRASH CAN'S COVER, AS A HUMAN SCAVENGER, NAMED PAUL BURK, DIGS THRU THE RUBBISH...
IF I COULD ONLY FIND SOMETHIN' THAT I COULD SELL AN GET ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A DRINK!
HIS HAND CLOSES AROUND SOMETHING SMOOTH, AND A PANG OF HOPE SHOOTS THRU HIM...
HEY! WHAT'S THIS? CRIPES... ONLY A BOTTLE! BUT MAYBE THERE'S SOME WHISKEY LEFT IN IT...
HOLY MACKEREL! THE BOTTLE'S GOT A GENIE IN IT! A REAL, LIVE GENIE...
HE WANTED RICHES AND POWER, AND HE GOT THEM... PLUS SOMETHING HE DIDN'T ASK FOR...
BEWARE-- THIS DEFINITION OF ETERNITY HOLDS TREACHEROUS MEANING!

CRIPES, A GENIE, JUST LIKE THE ONES IN FAIRY TALES! THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO GIVE YA 3 WISHES WHEN YA SET THEM FREE... ANYTHING IN THE WORLD YOU WANT!
BUT...BUT THEY CAN'T REALLY EXIST...THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF TOY...ALL I GOTTA DO TO FIND OUT IS PULL OUT THE CORK!
POP
THE GENIE IS FREE!
A SHARP, HISSING SOUND FILLS THE SOFT NIGHT AIR...
A GREEN MASS COMES BILLOWING OUT OF THE BOTTLE...
AND FILLS THE AIR WITH THE STENCH OF SULPHUR AND BRIMSTONE...
VOOM
SSS
A NAMELESS TERROR GRIPS PAUL BURK, A FEAR OF THINGS BEYOND THE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN BEINGS... AND YET STRONGER THAN HIS FEAR IS GREED FOR HIS REWARD...
I AM THE GENIE OF BARKU... WHY HAVE YOU DISTURBED MY REST?
I...I LET YOU OUTTA THAT BOTTLE! I SET YOU FREE! NOW YOU GOTTA GIVE ME THREE WISHES!
WISHES?? YOU STUPID FOOL... YOU CAN GO FRY FIRST...I'LL GIVE YOU NO WISHES!
BUT YOU MUST... THAT'S WHAT ALL THE GENIES DO WHEN THEY ARE SET FREE!


BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BE SET FREE, YOU MEDDLING IDIOT! I WAS PERFECTLY HAPPY TO STAY IN THAT BOTTLE FOREVER! ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE WAY THINGS ARE THESE DAYS!
ALL THOSE OTHER GENIES YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT WANTED TO ESCAPE...BUT I WAS HAPPY WHERE I WAS! I WANT TO GO BACK...AND SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE THAT LET ME OUT, I HAVE TO HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO RETURN INTO THE BOTTLE!
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY YOU CAN GET BACK IN?
NO OTHER WAY! NOW, QUICK...NO MORE FOOLISH QUESTIONS! GIVE ME PERMISSION TO GO BACK INTO MY BOTTLE TO REST IN PEACE FOREVER!
IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD HAVE POWER AND MONEY, AND MAYBE EVEN CHANGE MYSELF SO THAT I COULD BE HANDSOME!
GOSH, I DUNNO... I'M PRETTY DISAPPOINTED... I WAS COUNTING A LOT ON THOSE 3 WISHES!

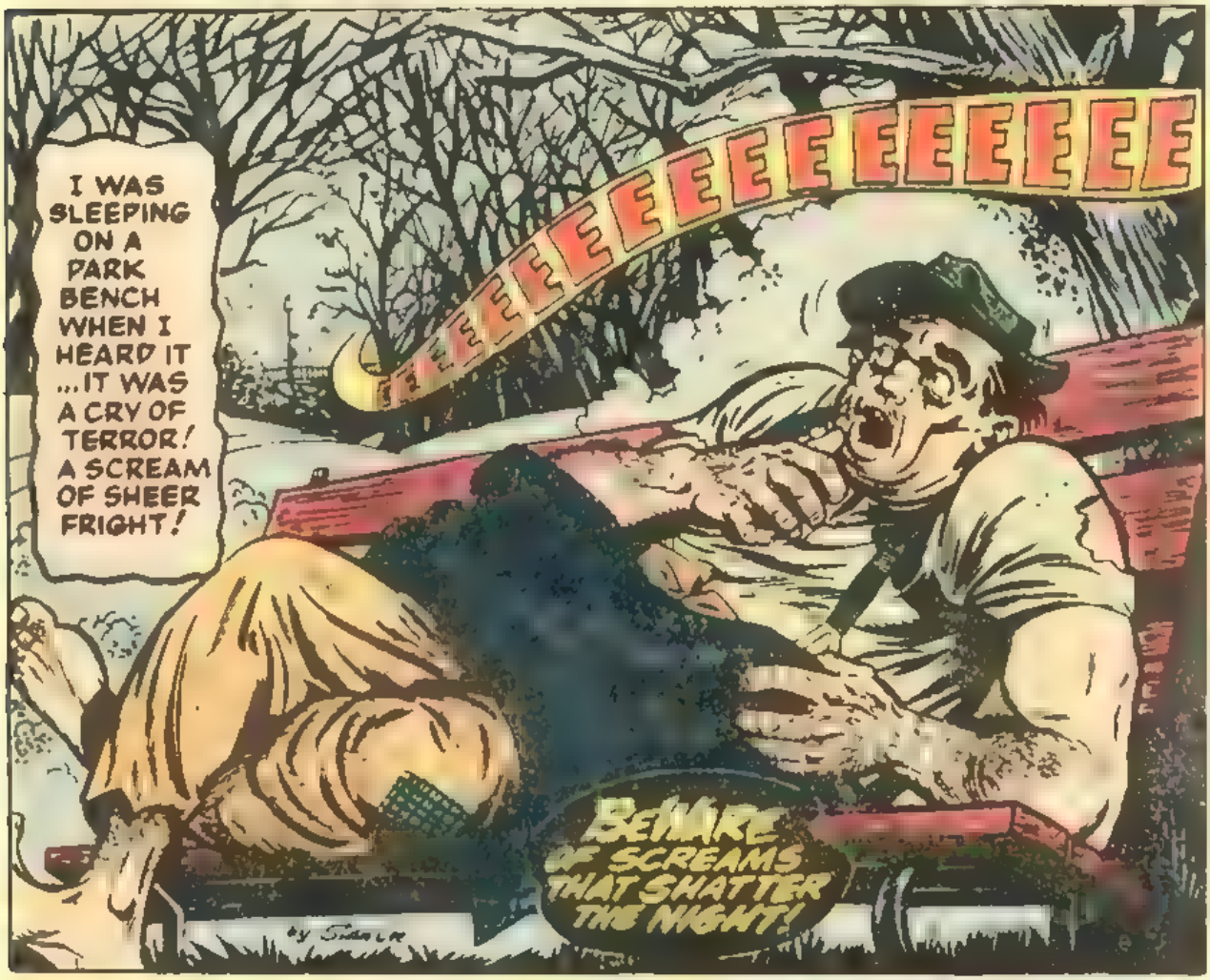
STOP DAYDREAMING AND DO AS I ASK YOU! JUST SAY A FEW WORDS AND I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WHERE I CAME FROM!
IF I CAN'T HAVE WHAT I WANT...THEN YOU CAN'T HAVE WHAT YOU WANT!

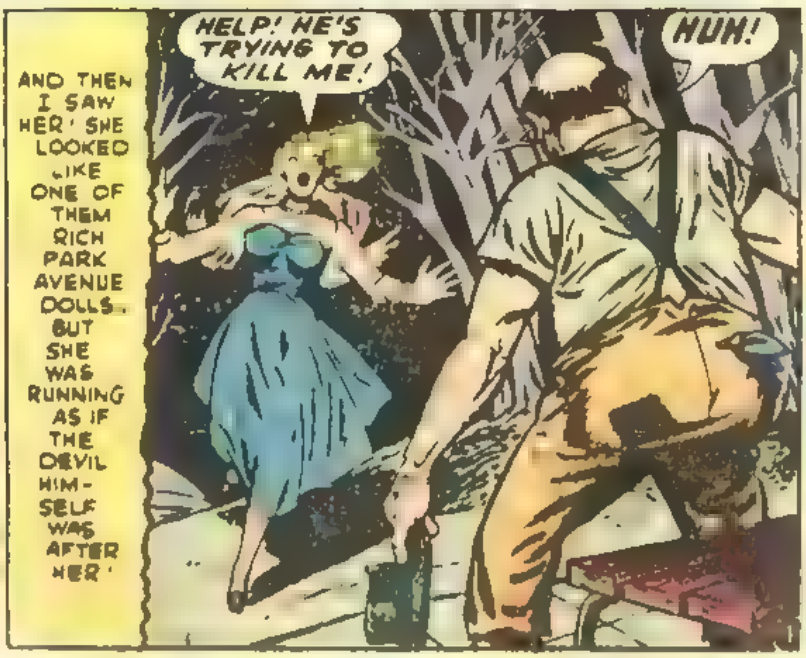
NO WISHES... NO PERMISSION!
WHAT?! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M A GENIE! ONE SNAP OF MY FINGERS AND YOU'LL BE A DEAD MAN!

YEAH, SURE...AN' IF I'M DEAD, SO ARE YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING BACK INTO THE BOTTLE! REMEMBER, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET YOU BACK IN THERE!
YOU'RE AS BLACK-HEARTED AS THE 40 THIEVES .. YOU'RE FORCING ME TO GRANT YOU THE 3 WISHES!
THAT'S RIGHT...AN' THEN YOU CAN GET BACK IN YOUR BOTTLE FOREVER
I HAVE NO CHOICE! I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN REMAIN HERE! NAME YOUR 3 WISHES!
THE FIRST WISH IS FOR MONEY, A FORTUNE IN GOLD AND PRECIOUS JEWELS THAT MAKES HIM TREMBLE WITH EXCITEMENT...
AND FINALLY, HE ASKS TO BE MADE HANDSOME... THE KIND OF GOOD LOOKS THE GIRLS GO FOR...
THE SECOND WISH IS FOR ALL THE FINE THINGS HE'S WANTED ALL HIS LIFE! AN ESTATE, TO MAKE MILLIONAIRES ENVIOUS ..
WHEN HIS WORK IS DONE, THE GENIE ASKS PAUL TO KEEP HIS WORD
NOW YOU'VE GOTTEN ALL THESE STUPID THINGS GIVE ME YOUR PERMISSION TO GET BACK INSIDE!
YEAH, I KNOW. .BUT FIRST GET DOWN ON THE GROUND AND CRAWL A LITTLE BIT! LICK THE DIRT OFF MY SHOES!
BUT YOU PROMISED!
WELL NOW, I DUNNO...YOU BEEN PRETTY NASTY TO ME ..

THE GENIE'S HUMILIATION IS COMPLETE AS HE IS FORCED TO GROVEL IN THE DUST BEFORE PAUL BURK! BUT HE HAS NO ALTERNATIVE...
GRRR
GRRR
ALL RIGHT, YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR STUFFY OLD BOTTLE, NOW! AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
I HAVE YOUR PERMISSION, AND NOW I AM READY TO RETURN TO MY BOTTLE FOREVER.
THE AIR IS FILLED WITH THE ROARING SOUND OF A TEMPEST...AND THE BILLOWING BLOSSOMS OF BRIMSTONE SMOKE...AS THE GENIE DESCENDS THRU THE MAELSTROM INTO HIS BOTTLE .. DRAGGING PAUL BURK WITH HIM!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
WE'RE IN THE BOTTLE TOGETHER AND THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET OUT IS TO GET MY PERMISSION!
GO AHEAD AND ASK ME...AND WHAT DO YOU THINK MY ANSWER IS GOING TO BE... HUH??
AAAAAAARRRRR
THE END

A SHRIEK IN THE NIGHT

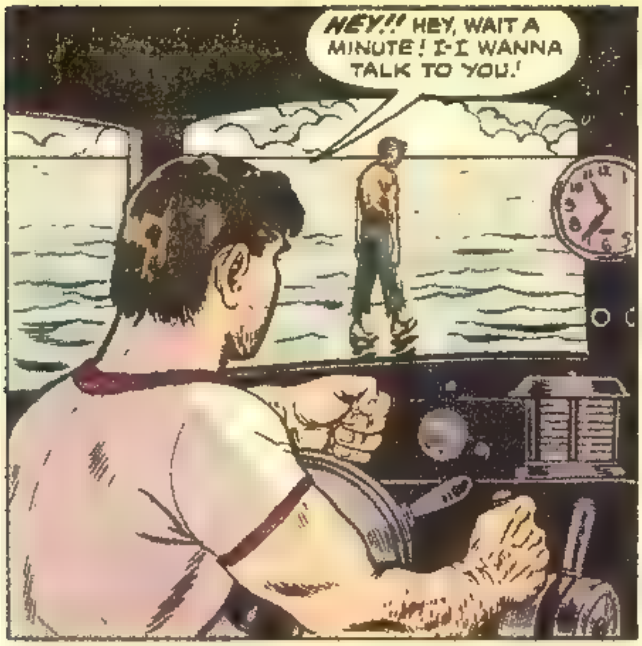

I WAS SLEEPING ON A PARK BENCH WHEN I HEARD IT ...IT WAS A CRY OF TERROR! A SCREAM OF SHEER FRIGHT!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
BEWARE OF SCREAMS THAT SHATTER THE NIGHT!

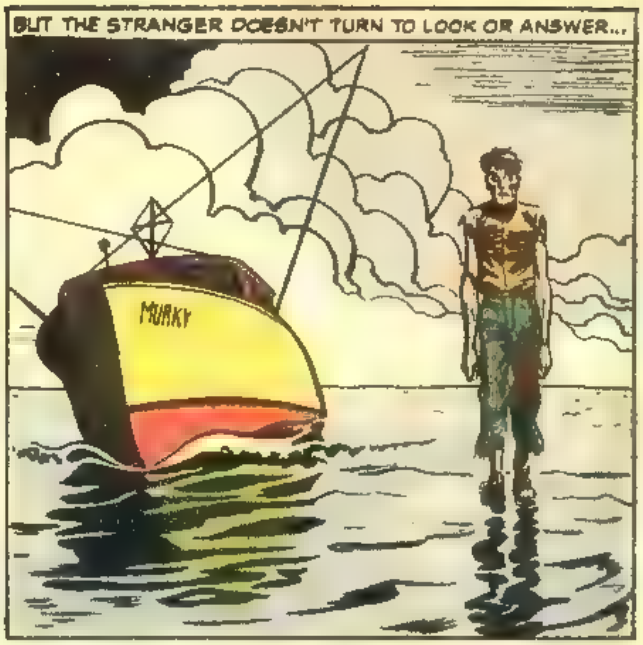

AND THEN I SAW HER! SHE LOOKED LIKE ONE OF THEM RICH PARK AVENUE DOLLS. BUT SHE WAS RUNNING AS IF THE DEVIL HIMSELF WAS AFTER HER!
HELP! HE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!
HUH!

I PUSHED HER BEHIND ME AND LOOKED OUT INTO THE SHADOWS! I WASN'T SCARED OF NO MAN. IF IT WAS A MAN THAT WAS CHASING HER!
RELAX, LADY! I AIN'T GONNA LET NO ONE HURT YA!
HE'S COMING! I CAN HEAR HIM!
AND THEN I SAW HIM! HE WAS POWERFUL-LOOKING AND AS BIG AS I WAS! NO WONDER SHE WAS SCARED! HE LOOKED LIKE A MADMAN!
I TOLD YOU YOU'D NEVER ESCAPE ME!
YOU!
HE LEAPED TOWARD HER BUT I STOPPED HIM WITH A FAST RIGHT TO THE JAW...
HE STAGGERED BACK AND LOOKED AT ME AS IF HE WAS SEEING ME FOR THE FIRST TIME!
WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND WHO I AM! YOU BETTER MAKE TRACKS OUTTA HERE BEFORE I BUST YA IN TWO!
HE DIDN'T ANSWER ME...HE JUST LEAPED AT MY THROAT!
HIS FINGERS CLOSED AROUND MY NECK LIKE TEN STEEL BANDS!
AND HIS HOT BREATH BURNED INTO MY FACE AS HE SAID...
I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT HER! NOTHING WILL STOP ME NOW! NOTHING!
I BEGAN TO FEEL DIZZY... I KNEW I HAD TO BREAK HIS GRIP OR DIE!

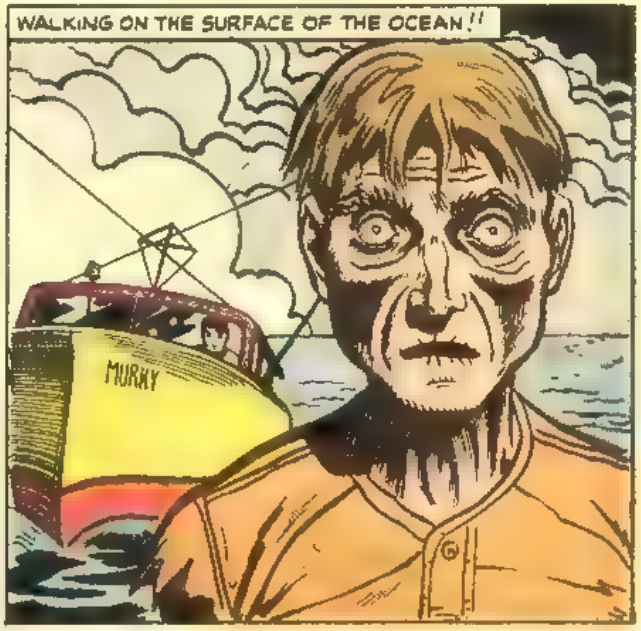
MY HANDS REACHED OUT FOR HIS EYES CLAWING... SCRATCHING 'T WAS HIM OR ME
SLOWLY I FORCED HIS HEAD BACK AND I KNEW I WAS WINNING...
AND THEN IN ONE SPLIT SECOND IT WAS OVER!
AAGGHH
WEAK AND SHAKING, I TURNED TO THE GIRL...
HE...HE WON'T BOTHER YOU ANY MORE, LADY!! BUT TELL ME...WHY WAS HE CHASING YOU WITH MURDER IN HIS EYES?
HE...
HAD...
HIS...
REASONS!!
THE END

OUR STORY BEGINS IN A SMALL FISHING COVE OFF THE ROCK-STREWN CAPE COD SHORE! THE SEA IS GLASSY CALM, AS JOE RUSSO FISHES FROM HIS BOAT... A PEACEFUL, PLACID BEGINNING FOR ONE OF THE MOST TERRIFYING DAYS IN A MAN'S LIFE...
CRIPES, WHERE ARE ALL THE BLASTED FISH I BEEN HEARIN' ABOUT? I AIN'T HAD A BITE ALL DAY!
MURKY
CAPE COD
WHEN HE SEES THE STRANGE SIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE IS TOO NUMB... TOO SHOCKED TO BELIEVE HIS EYES! HE CAN ONLY STARE...
WHAT THE...? NO! NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I MUST BE HAVIN' A SUNSTROKE!
THE MAN WHO WALKED ON WATER!
NO! NO! IT AIN'T POSSIBLE!! A MAN CAN'T WALK ON WATER!!
BEWARE, JOE RUSSO-- YOU'LL PAY A GROTESQUE PRICE TO PERFORM THIS MIRACLE!
Jay Scott Pike

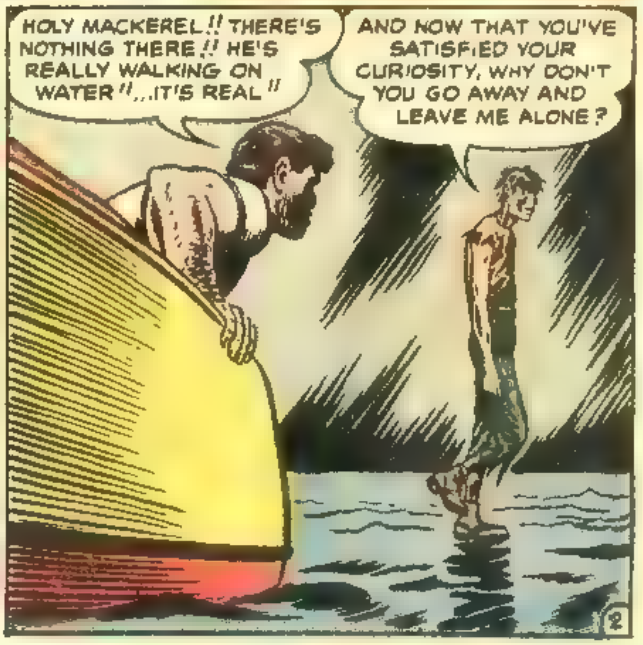

HEY!! HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! I-I WANNA TALK TO YOU!


BUT THE STRANGER DOESN'T TURN TO LOOK OR ANSWER...
MURKY

HE KEEPS ON HIS WAY... WITHOUT SPLASHING OR GETTING WET...
MURKY

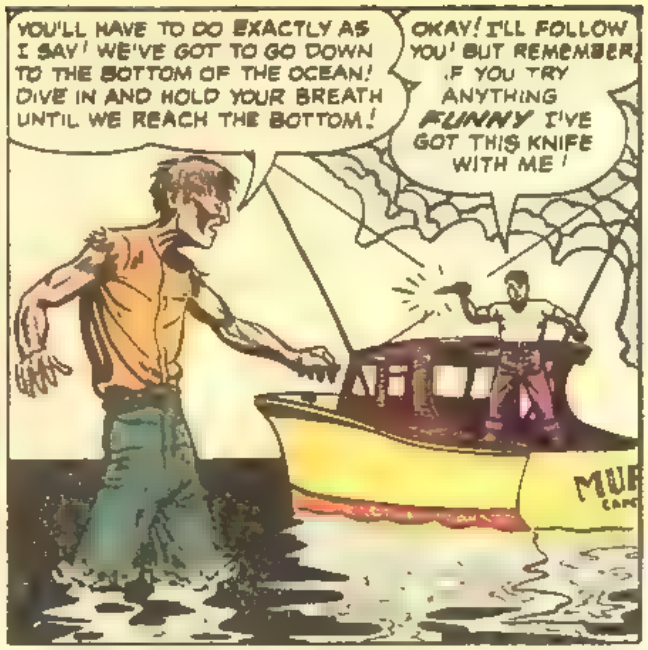

WALKING ON THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN!!
MURKY

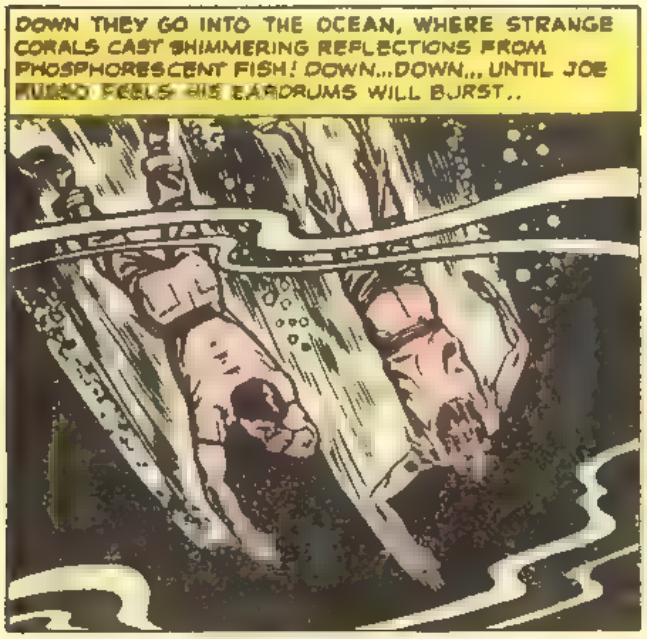
IT MUST BE A GAG OF SOME KIND! MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING HOLDING HIM UP... OR A SPECIAL KIND OF RAFT!!

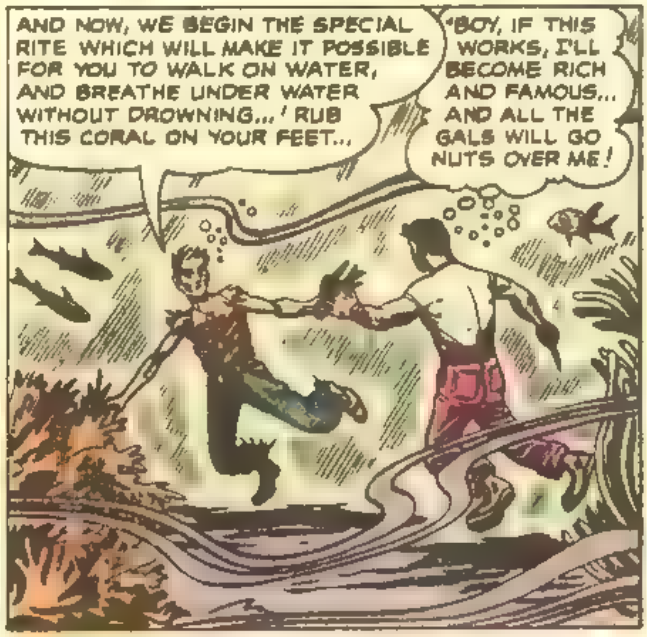

HOLY MACKEREL!! THERE'S NOTHING THERE!! HE'S REALLY WALKING ON WATER!!...IT'S REAL!!
AND NOW THAT YOU'VE SATISFIED YOUR CURIOSITY, WHY DON'T YOU GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE?

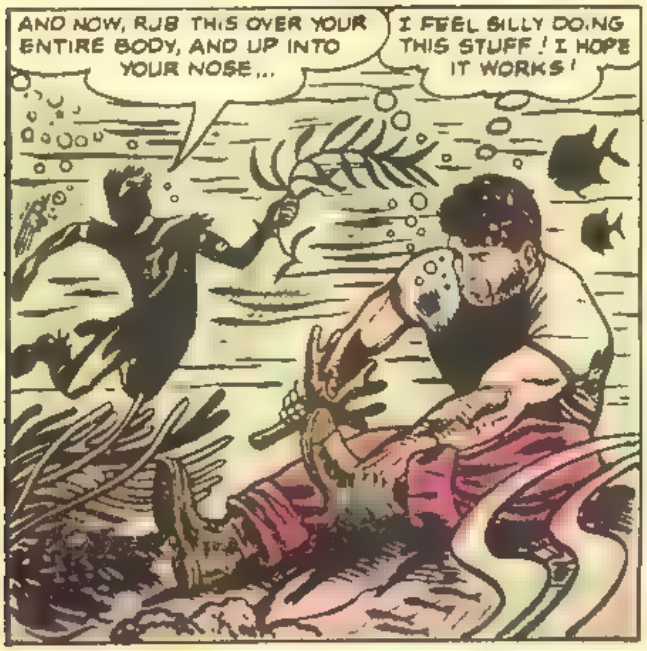
HEY, THAT'S SOME TERRIFIC TRICK! HOW DO YOU DO IT? HOW COME YOU CAN WALK ON WATER WITHOUT DROWNING?
GO AWAY AND DON'T BOTHER ME!
BUT YOU GOTTA TELL ME! I'LL GO OUT OF MY MIND IF I DON'T FIND OUT HOW YOU DO IT!
I CAN'T TELL YOU THE SECRET, SO FORGET IT! I'M NOT BOTHERING YOU...SO LEAVE ME ALONE!
MURK
BOY, WITH A POWER LIKE THAT I COULD REALLY GO PLACES! I COULD MAKE A FORTUNE PUTTING ON SHOWS AND STUFF!
I AIN'T LETTIN' HIM GET AWAY WITHOUT TELLING ME THE SECRET OF HIS POWER.. I'LL GET IT OUTTA HIM IF I HAVE TO BLOW HIS BRAINS OUT!
ALL RIGHT, NOW YOU BETTER NOT TAKE ANOTHER STEP! I WANT TO LEARN HOW TO WALK ON WATER WITHOUT SINKING OR DROWNING!
NO! NO! DON'T SHOOT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!... I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE POWER! IT'S DANGEROUS... I CAN'T!
IF YOU CAN DO IT, SO CAN I! YOU JUST WANT TO HOG IT ALL TO YOURSELF! I'M COUNTING TO THREE BEFORE I SHOOT... ONE... TWO...
3

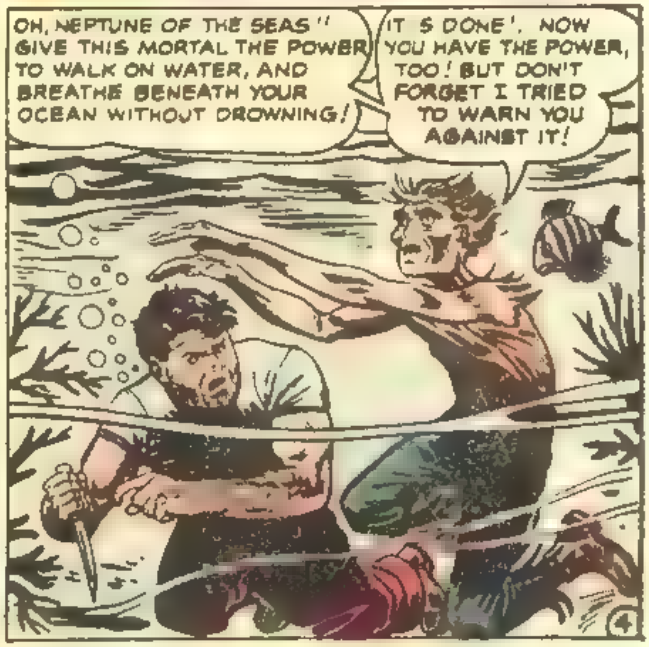
NO! NO! DON'T SHOOT! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.. YOU CAN HAVE THE POWER, ONLY DON'T KILL ME!
THAT'S BETTER! I KNEW YOU'D LISTEN TO REASON WHEN YOU SAW THIS GUN POINTED BETWEEN YOUR EYES!
MURKY

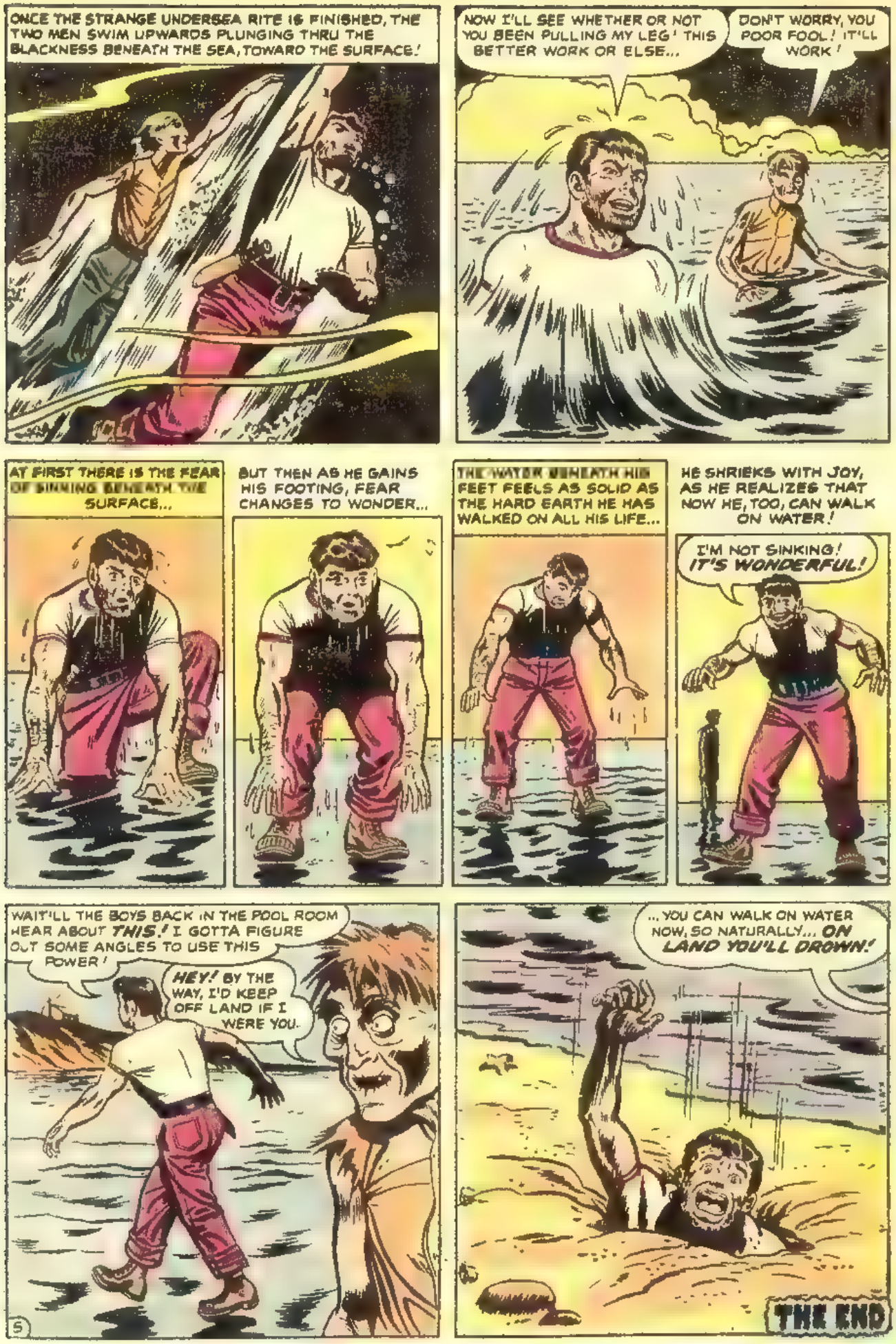

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY! WE'VE GOT TO GO DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN! DIVE IN AND HOLD YOUR BREATH UNTIL WE REACH THE BOTTOM!
OKAY! I'LL FOLLOW YOU! BUT REMEMBER, IF YOU TRY ANYTHING FUNNY I'VE GOT THIS KNIFE WITH ME!


DOWN THEY GO INTO THE OCEAN, WHERE STRANGE CORALS CAST SHIMMERING REFLECTIONS FROM PHOSPHORESCENT FISH! DOWN...DOWN... UNTIL JOE RUSSO FEELS HIS EARDRUMS WILL BURST..


AND NOW, WE BEGIN THE SPECIAL RITE WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO WALK ON WATER, AND BREATHE UNDER WATER WITHOUT DROWNING...! RUB THIS CORAL ON YOUR FEET...
BOY, IF THIS WORKS, I'LL BECOME RICH AND FAMOUS... AND ALL THE GALS WILL GO NUTS OVER ME!


AND NOW, RUB THIS OVER YOUR ENTIRE BODY, AND UP INTO YOUR NOSE...
I FEEL SILLY DOING THIS STUFF! I HOPE IT WORKS!


OH, NEPTUNE OF THE SEAS" GIVE THIS MORTAL THE POWER TO WALK ON WATER, AND BREATHE BENEATH YOUR OCEAN WITHOUT DROWNING!
IT'S DONE'. NOW YOU HAVE THE POWER, TOO! BUT DON'T FORGET I TRIED TO WARN YOU AGAINST IT!
4


ONCE THE STRANGE UNDERSEA RITE IS FINISHED, THE TWO MEN SWIM UPWARDS PLUNGING THRU THE BLACKNESS BENEATH THE SEA, TOWARD THE SURFACE!
NOW I'LL SEE WHETHER OR NOT YOU BEEN PULLING MY LEG! THIS BETTER WORK OR ELSE...
DON'T WORRY, YOU POOR FOOL! IT'LL WORK!
AT FIRST THERE IS THE FEAR OF SINKING BENEATH THE SURFACE...
BUT THEN AS HE GAINS HIS FOOTING, FEAR CHANGES TO WONDER...
THE WATER BENEATH HIS FEET FEELS AS SOLID AS THE HARD EARTH HE HAS WALKED ON ALL HIS LIFE...
HE SHRIEKS WITH JOY, AS HE REALIZES THAT NOW HE, TOO, CAN WALK ON WATER!
I'M NOT SINKING! IT'S WONDERFUL!
WAIT'LL THE BOYS BACK IN THE POOL ROOM HEAR ABOUT THIS! I GOTTA FIGURE OUT SOME ANGLES TO USE THIS POWER!
HEY! BY THE WAY, I'D KEEP OFF LAND IF I WERE YOU.
...YOU CAN WALK ON WATER NOW, SO NATURALLY... ON LAND YOU'LL DROWN!
THE END
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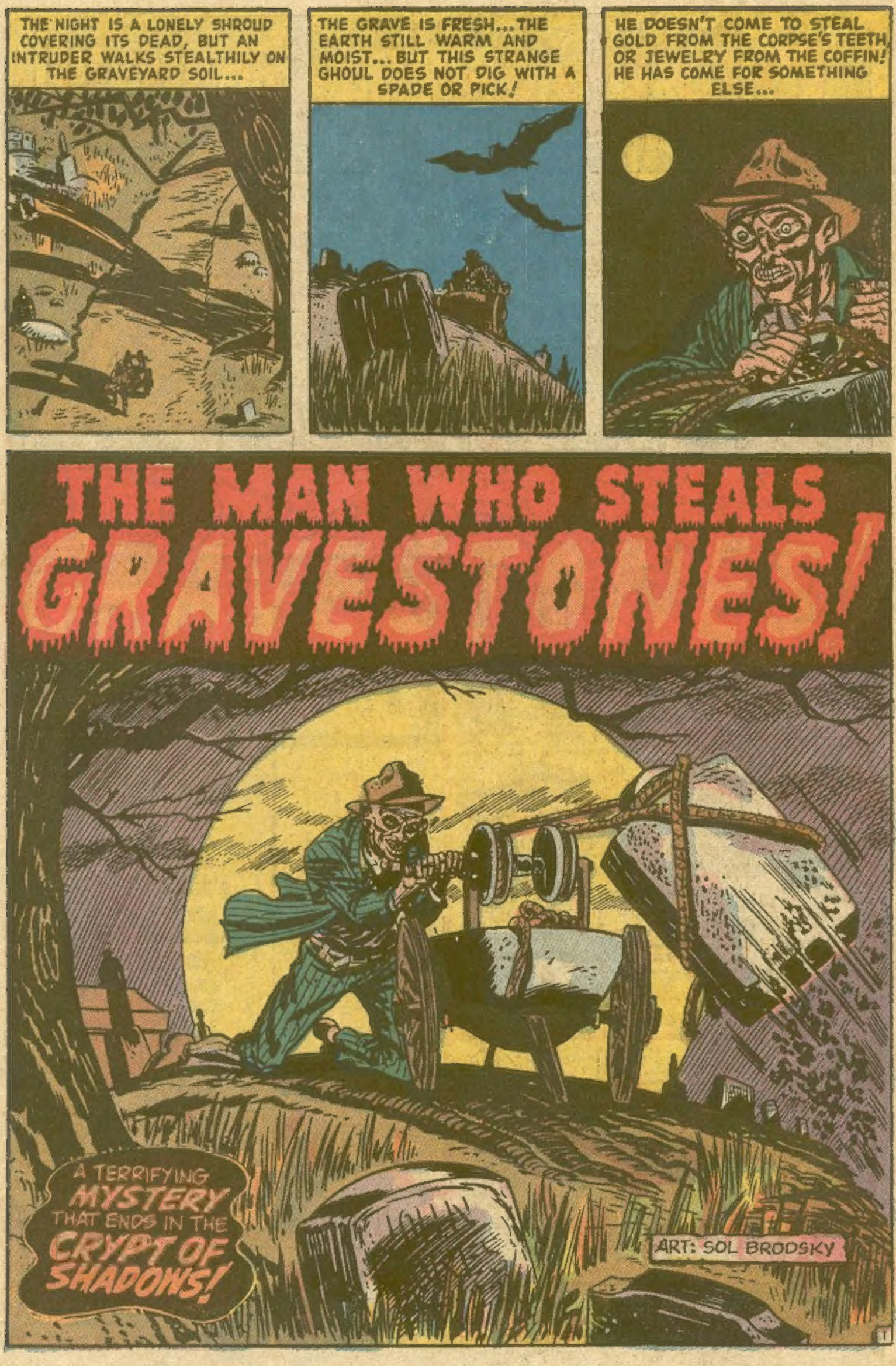
THE NIGHT IS A LONELY SHROUD COVERING ITS DEAD, BUT AN INTRUDER WALKS STEALTHILY ON THE GRAVEYARD SOIL...
THE GRAVE IS FRESH...THE EARTH STILL WARM AND MOIST... BUT THIS STRANGE GHOUL DOES NOT DIG WITH A SPADE OR PICK!
HE DOESN'T COME TO STEAL GOLD FROM THE CORPSE'S TEETH OR JEWELRY FROM THE COFFIN! HE HAS COME FOR SOMETHING ELSE...
THE MAN WHO STEALS GRAVESTONES!
A TERRIFYING MYSTERY THAT ENDS IN THE CRYPT OF SHADOWS!
ART: SOL BRODSKY

HE WORKS SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY IN THE NIGHT...

TRAMPLING UPON THE FLOWERS THAT MOURNING RELATIVES HAVE BROUGHT...

PLYING HIS MACABRE, GHOULISH TRADE...

RIPPING THE TOMBSTONES THAT BELONG TO THE DEAD...

THROUGH THE NIGHT HE WORKS, UNTIL THE FIRST FAINT STREAKS OF DAWN CUT ACROSS THE MORNING SKY! HE STRUGGLES WITH HIS FINAL STOLEN CACHE...

AND NOW, THE GRAVESTONE ROBBER DRIVES HIS TRUCK AWAY, RUMBLING OVER DIRT AND COBBLED ROADS, LEAVING MANY GRAVES BARE...

AND LATER, INSIDE HIS SHOP, THE GHOUL WHO ROBS THE DEAD OF THEIR IDENTITY...GRINDS OFF THE CARVING, MAKING THE STONES LOOK LIKE NEW, SO THAT HE CAN RESELL THEM...

HEH... HEH... GOOD HAUL TONIGHT! THIS STONE'LL BRING AT LEAST A HUNDRED BUCKS!

BZZZZ

THE DEAD DON'T APPRECIATE THESE BEAUTIFUL MARBLE MONUMENTS AS MUCH AS I DO... IT'S AMUSING AND PROFITABLE TO SELL THE SAME ONES OVER AND OVER AGAIN!

JOSIAH CRF

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

IT IS LATE THE FOLLOWING EVENING, WHEN A CUSTOMER COMES INTO JOSIAH CREECH'S STORE...
YES, SIR! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I WANT TO BUY A GRAVESTONE, AND I'D LIKE IT SET RIGHT AWAY!
YES, SIR! YOU SURE GOT GOOD TASTE! THIS IS ONE OF OUR VERY BEST MONUMENTS! IT'LL COST YOU A HUNDRED DOLLARS!
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT COSTS! I JUST WANT IT PUT UP RIGHT AWAY!
AND SO, THE GRAVESTONE GHOUL... JOSIAH CREECH... BRINGS BACK TO THE CEMETERY WHAT HE HAS TAKEN FROM IT ONLY THE NIGHT BEFORE...
HEH! HEH! WHAT A RACKET! IF THOSE DOPES EVER FOUND OUT, THEY'D HOLLER BLUE MURDER!
I WON'T PACK THE EARTH TOO TIGHT, SO IT'LL BE EASIER TO PULL OUT WHEN I COME BACK FOR IT...
I'LL JUST GIVE IT A COUPLE OF EXTRA PATS WITH THE SHOVEL TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD! NO USE HAVING THE MUG GET SUSPICIOUS!
THERE, NOW, IT'S ALL FINISHED AND SET GOOD AND TIGHT! THAT'LL BE A HUNDRED DOLLARS!
WHAT TH'??? THERE'S NO ONE AROUND!!! HE'S GONE!

THAT DIRTY RAT! HE BEAT IT SO THAT HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY ME... WELL I'LL SHOW HIM HE AIN'T GOING TO CHEAT ME!
IT'S A GOOD THING I DIDN'T PACK THIS IN TOO TIGHT! NOW I'LL JUST PULL IT RIGHT OUT AND...
WHAT... WHAT'S THAT??
NO! NO! LET GO... LET GO!
HELP! HELP ME, SOMEBODY!
I'M BURIED ALIVE... AAAIIIEEEEE!!!
NOW I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, MR. CREECH... SINCE YOU WANT MY GRAVESTONE SO MUCH...
I'LL SHARE IT WITH YOU!
THE END